

The Utah Commission on Volunteers

Volunteer Voice



A newsletter for those in the volunteer and service sectors in Utah

From the Executive Director...

Welcome new COV board members! Lt. Governor Gary Herbert announced the ap-

pointment of eight new board members to the Commission: Ivan Cendese, Alan Griffin, Marko Mijic, Carol Morrow, Josh Pedersen, Dolores Riley, Shirlee Silversmith and Diane Hartz Warsoff. These talented and generous individuals join

current board members Wally Brown, Rick Crawford, Linda Dunn, Myla Dutton, Larry Ellertson, George Garwood, Elaine Gause, Bill Hulterstrom, Richard Kendell, Michael Lester, JoAnn Neilson, Donald Staheli, Darrell White and Verdi White. Collectively, they represent youth and schools, seniors, volunteer managers, Native Americans, nonprofits, service, faith and community-based organizations, higher education, elected officials, labor, national service, and public safety. As individuals, each brings unique perspectives

and priorities. Together, they energize our efforts.

Utah is fortunate to have Steve Rundquist take the helm of CERT beginning this month. One of his first goals is to establish a CERT Advisory Council; stay tuned and as Steve said, "Hold onto your hats!"

Using volunteers wisely and effectively is a discussion that will come up many times in the next few weeks – at a gathering of public health and civic leaders, at the Mid Year Conference of the Utah League of Cities and Towns, and of course, at our 2006 Utah Conference on Service in Park City, May 22-24. Local and national speakers and presenters will change the way you think about community and what it means to serve and prosper. Join us!

-Kathy Hyde, Executive Director

April 17th is the annual Silver Bowl Awards where an individual or group from each county is recognized for outstanding service to their community. Please take a moment to nominate your favorite volunteers! Download the registration form at http://volunteers.utah.gov/awards/silver_bowl/index.html

Lieutenant Governor's Corner

As chairman of the Utah Commission on Volunteers, I want to welcome our new board members who were appointed by the Governor in February and thank those who recently completed their four-year terms of service to Utah. This 25-member Commission is dedicated to improving communities through service and volunteering. Utahns working together can accomplish great things and I am confident that we can achieve our goals in 2006.

One important goal is individual and family preparedness for emergencies of all kinds. At our February Commission meeting, I announced the appointment of Dr. Stephen Rundquist as the new State Coordinator for the Community Emergency Response Team program. He assumes responsibility for the CERT program beginning this month and will promote and maintain it as the primary Community Preparedness Program for the state of Utah. Congratulations to our new board members, to Steve Rundquist and to all of you for your outstanding service to your families, friends, coworkers and neighbors. Governor Huntsman and I are looking forward to seeing you at the Conference on Service in May, where we will recognize some of our outstanding volunteers. Nominate *your* favorite volunteer at

www.volunteers.utah.gov. Thanks for all you do!

Gary R. Herbert,
Lieutenant Governor

Lieutenant Governor Announces New CERT Coordinator



Dr. Stephen Rundquist and Lieutenant Governor Gary Herbert

Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert announced the appointment of Dr. Stephen P. Rundquist as the new State CERT Coordinator for the Community Emergency Response Team Program at the February 16th Board meeting of the Utah Commission on Volunteers (COV). Rundquist will assume responsibility beginning March 6, 2006, promoting and maintaining the CERT program as the primary Community Preparedness Program for the state of Utah.

Since 1994, nearly 60,000 Utahns have been trained in basic disaster response skills through the CERT program under the direction of the Utah Department of Public

Safety. In January 2006, the CERT program moved to the Commission on Volunteers, an office of the Lieutenant Governor. "We feel extremely honored that Dr. Rundquist would agree to take over the responsibilities of CERT for the State of Utah," said Lieutenant Governor Herbert. "He is, after all, the man who brought CERT to Utah in the first place and is the most qualified to lead the CERT program now."

Dr. Rundquist knows exactly what he has signed up for. In 1993 he participated in FEMA's first CERT Train-the-Trainer course at the National Emergency Training Center and in 1994 established a pilot program with West Valley City to present the first CERT training course. In 1994, Rundquist also created a State CERT Advisory Board to develop program guidance and procedures ensuring program integrity statewide. Between 1994 and 2000, Rundquist established the CERT program as the centerpiece of Utah's Community Disaster Preparedness, training over 12,000 citizens and making Utah one of the first states in the nation to embrace the CERT Program and the first in the nation to establish state level leadership, guidance and Train-the-Trainer courses.

Rundquist has been with the Utah Office of Emergency Services, Division of Homeland Security for sixteen years, the last five of which as the Community Support Specialist and Liaison Officer assigned to the counties in Southwest Utah. In that position he was instrumental in organizing the nation's first two Regional Citizen Corps Councils, in answer to the President's Call to Service, following 9-11. Kathy Hyde states, "Dr. Rundquist undeniably has the qualifications, knowledge and skills to make Utah's CERT Program number one in the nation, but more importantly, he understands that CERT is about readiness, people helping people, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number."



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AmeriCorps Update

"It takes a steady hand to carry a full cup." Rosie Mauk director of AmeriCorps has been doing that very well during that past 4 years but she has chosen to redirect her journey and shall step from the helm of AmeriCorps.

"An ordinary woman working with extraordinary individuals." is how she describes her term as Director of AmeriCorps. She has been at the forefront, delivering the message of this amazing program called AmeriCorps to tens of thousands of individuals across the country - on college campuses, to leaders in this country, on nightly news shows, NPR, etc. Rosie Mauk has watched and participated as thousands of citizens recited the AmeriCorps pledge, committing their time and effort to gracious terms of service all over the United States. She is appreciated and will be missed. She provides these words to express her view and vision of service:

"Together we have strengthened and grown the program so we can continue to make a difference and

get things done for America."

The "we" I speak of is certainly the staff at the Corporation, the leaders in our field, and the individuals in local communities that run our programs, train our members and dream about how to transform their neighborhoods and communities. But it is the members (approximately 250,000 that have served during my tenure) that I will never forget. Many of you have heard me say how I believe our potential for greatness is measured by a spirit of generosity, commitment and accomplishments. I think a good person is one who can help contribute to society. I think a great person causes conditions under which the human soul can be nourished. In you I see the faces of America and its future. And from this perspective it is a bright future indeed."

As Program Manager for AmeriCorps Utah, I add my voice in appreciation.

-Candace Powers, Program Manager



2006 Utah Conference on Service and Volunteerism

"Be Ready Utah—Ready to Serve, Ready to Prosper"

May 22-24, 2006

The Yarrow, Resort Hotel and Conference Center
Park City, Utah

Visit www.volunteers.utah.gov for registration information.

Youth Service

On March 16-18, Youth City Councils statewide will convene at Utah State University in Logan for their annual leadership retreat. Stephanie Brown, Utah's YES Ambassador, will be promoting a partnership between the state and Youth City Councils as our communication networks. On March 20-23 the National Youth Crime Prevention Conference will be held in Odgen, Utah. Youth from across the nation (and the world) will gather to discuss issues and solutions to crime. Stephanie will also be making a presentation at the Utah League of Cities and Towns Mid Year Conference in St. George on April 7th about the benefits of having a youth city council in your community.

April 21 is National Youth Service Day. We are partnering with several people to host a project in all the schools around the state. In correlation with the an-

nouncement for the "Be Ready Utah" campaign, our project will focus on Be Ready Kids and talk about how they can prepare their classrooms and schools for disasters.

Because so many exciting things are happening with youth, we're also working on a project to capture it all on DVD. We want youth to tell their stories and talk about why they get involved and how they're helping their communities. Youth have a great power to encourage civic engagement in all citizens no matter what age and we're excited to promote this message.

-Stephanie Brown, YES Ambassador



The VISTA View

If it's March, we must be talking about our amazing VISTA members who "*march*" through their year(s) of national service commitment changing lives and preparing communities! We are blessed to have VISTA members throughout our state who serve with great dedication, imagination and leadership abilities. We'd like you to get to know two of them.

Pati Comes (pronounced "Kumz") joined us at the Commission On Volunteers the end of January 2006. She is a great addition to our group with her level-headed calming nature and has proven herself to be invaluable in our brainstorming sessions!

Pati has a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Utah in Community Health. She has worked at the state Health Department in Injury Prevention and Maternal and Child Health and at the Utah Poison Control Center as a Health Educator. Pati feels that there is nothing more important than personal preparedness! She is looking forward to her year of service as a VISTA and helping to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared through Citizen Corps. Pati will be working closely with Steve Rundquist, our new State CERT Coordinator.

Stan Foote, after two years of VISTA service in Sevier County, is returning to civilian life but will continue to work on emergency preparedness on a part-time basis. Kathy Erickson, wearer of many hats in So. Utah including Citizen Corps, CERT, and The Volunteer Connection, nominated Stan for the "Community Heroes" column in the local newspaper. The following is an article from The Richfield Reaper on February 28, 2006 by David Anderson, Associate Editor.

Community Heroes

LOST CREEK - There are a lot of volunteers who do a lot of different things.

However, it takes a lot to volunteer for a year of continuous service on a full-time basis. This is what Stan Foote did in 2004 when he stepped up to be a Volunteer In Service to America for the Sevier County Sheriff's Office.

Foote's duties as a volunteer included helping to build

a safer, stronger and better prepared community response to all types of disasters.

As a VISTA, Foote helped start the Community Emergency Response Team program in Sevier County through organizing committees and training. CERT provides individual citizens with basic triage, first aid and fire safety skills. The focus of CERT is to enable people to take care of themselves and their families until first responders can reach them.

"Stan takes any job he is given and discharges it correctly, with enthusiasm and conviction," said Shara Bastian, Sevier County CERT coordinator.

Foote did so well as a VISTA, Sheriff Phil Barney added him to the sheriff's office on a part time basis as the assistant emergency manager.

"He became very important," Barney said. "He's a great guy to have."

During the past two years Foote has completed a total of 26 FEMA Independent Study courses, 21 training courses through the Utah Office of Emergency Services, helped plan and conduct five training events or exercises through Southern Utah Citizen Corps, and attended two separate week-long intensive training courses at the National Emergency Training Center at Emmitsburg, MD. Foote has also completed the FEMA Professional Development for Emergency Managers course series, and lacks only one class to complete the Advanced Professional Development for Emergency Managers certification.

Foote had just retired from his dry wall business when he accepted the VISTA job. He had previous service with the National Security Agency during his time in the Marine Corps, which gave him an understanding of the significance of individual and community preparedness.

Foote also helped in an effort to recruit 1,381 volunteers during last year's flooding.

Foote lives in Lost Creek with his wife Jackie. They have six children.

-Lani Nisbet, Citizen Corps Program Manager

For more information contact the Utah Commission on Volunteers

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